WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS



Wednesday, March 24, 2021

MEETING VICTIMS WHERE THEY ARE

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Distributed by:

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Meeting Victims Where They Are

Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MsT National Crime Victim Law Institute

Who is NCVLI?

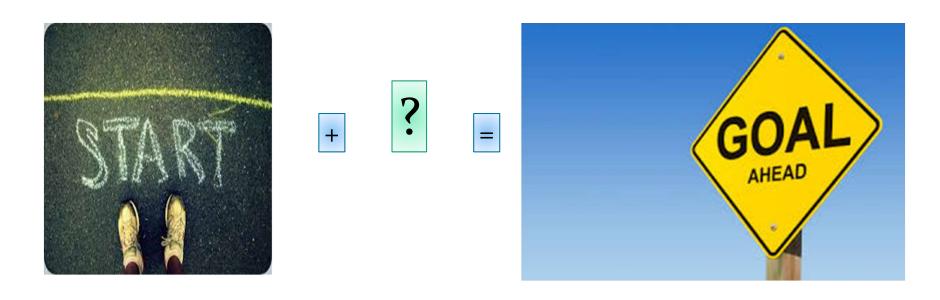
The ONLY national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and enforcing victims' legal rights.

Based at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, NCVLI promotes balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim centered legal advocacy, education, and resource-sharing.





Frame for the Day



Using the chat box please type in your #1 goal as a prosecutor?



One vision of goal





- **❖UNDERSTAND** survivor/victim* experience of system.
- ❖IDENTIFY the impacts of that experience on investigation and prosecution.
- **❖ DESCRIBE** landscape of victims' rights.
- UNDERSTAND foundational elements of privacy, privilege & confidentiality.
- **ARTICULATE** how trauma-informed efforts can improve outcomes.

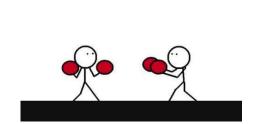


What do you know about what physiologically and neurobiologically happens during traumatic event?

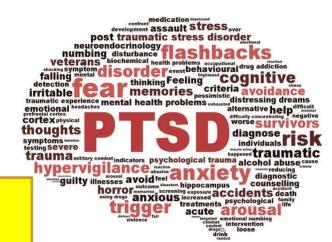












Share what you know about how PTS(D) presents/manifests in someone's behaviors



Let's walk "a day" in the life of a victim in criminal justice





Montana: judge reduced a former teacher's rape conviction to 31 days

because the victim, a 14year-old girl, was "as much in control of the situation" as her rapist and, in his opinion, "older than her chronological age." California: judge reduced a sentence of a convicted rapist because the woman didn't fight hard enough. The judge said, "If someone doesn't want to have sexual intercourse, the body shuts down. The body will not permit that to happen unless a lot of damage is inflicted, and we heard nothing about that in this case. That tells me that the victim in this case, although she wasn't necessarily willing, she didn't put up a fight."

Arizona: judge reduced a sentence of convicted sexual abuser to community service and probation, saying, "If you wouldn't have been there that night, none of this would have happened to you. ... When you blame others, you give up your power to change."

Alabama: judge structured 40-year sentence for rape so the rapist would serve 2 years in a community program for nonviolent criminals and 3 years of probation at home. The judge said, "You didn't hear the evidence. The original allegation was that both of these crimes were forcible. But then you have to believe that although she was forcibly raped twice, she continued to come back and have a social relationship (with the rapist)."



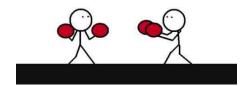
The Power of a STORY











In the words of Judith
Herman, M.D., "if one set
out intentionally to design a
system for provoking
symptoms of posttraumatic
stress disorder, it might look
very much like a [our justice
system]."

It's not just about the victim







Case Attrition Example

Of 100 rapes committed

An estimated 5-20 are reported to police

0.4 – 5.4 are prosecuted

"The "Justice Gap" for Sexual Assault Cases: Future Directions for Research and Reform," Kimberly Lonsway and Joanne Archambault, EVAW, 2012. 0.2 – 5.2 resulted in conviction

Stranger rapes usually account for only approximately 14% of all rapes.

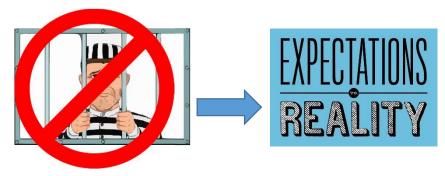












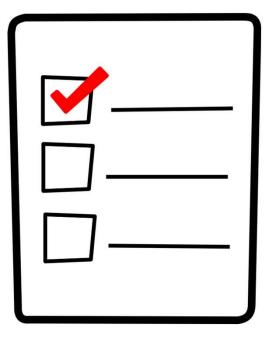
What gives voice & choice?

RIGHTS

Federal Crime Victims' Rights Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3771



Take 1 minute & write down as many rights as you can think of that victims are entitled to by <u>law</u>





Getting to the Goal

A Different Route



Different Approaches

- 25 year-old woman
- Raped by a friend's brother at a 4th of July party
- File police report
- Detective interview

"He wouldn't let up, pounding me with question after question.

Trying to trick, trying to get me to mess up. I wanted to say, 'hold on, give me a minute to think."

No, he kept coming at me."

(Campbell, R.; "The Neurobiology of Sexual Assault," National Institute of Justice, December 3, 2012.")

"It was classic good cop / bad cop. He stormed off and another detective sat down next to me. He offered me a cup of coffee. Coffee? Ok fine. How do I take it? WHAT? Why does he care how I take my coffee? Well he did.

He made me coffee. He gave me time to just sit, collect my thoughts."

"We talked it through. And I didn't feel rattled and freaked out. I'm sure I was incoherent and he just let it roll. He was patient.

I felt like I was piecing it together, like a puzzle, we were putting together a puzzle

And drinking coffee."

together.

- •I: So, why did you do that? (give her coffee)
- •R: It helps. Not the coffee so much, just the moment to let it all come together in their heads.
- •I: What do you mean?
- •R: I don't know why it's like that, I've just noticed that over the years. If you give them a few minutes to breathe....it starts to make more sense. I don't know why, it just does.

- •I: Were you worried that if you gave her some time, she'd just make something up?
- •R: Nah, not really. I mean, some victims lie, but most don't. Besides, if they're lying, we'll catch them at it eventually. I think it's just hard for victims to talk about and we just need to have a little patience."









Well okay, but wait a second



Save the Date November 11-13, 2021



2021 Crime Victim Law Conference Portland, Oregon



www.NCVLI.org

